LEVEL ONE

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

World

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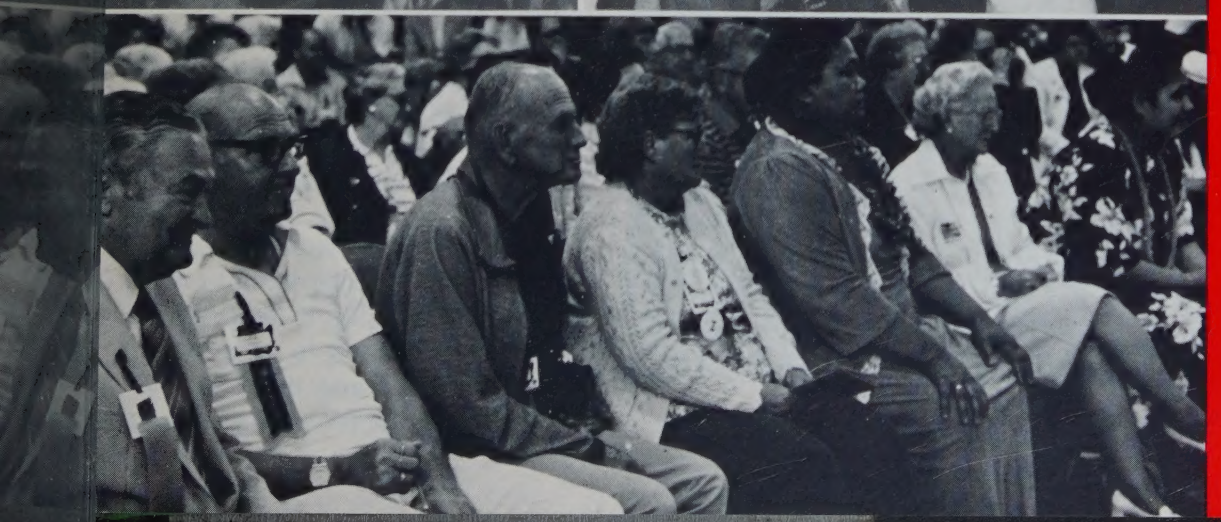

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World's Union Issue

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD

THE VOICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

COVER

Pictures clockwise from top: Convention Welcome by Washington Endeavorers; "Three Young Brides," Mrs. Betty Murdoch, Mrs. Lucille Billig and Mrs. Etta Barner; Juniors sharing with Joke Schout; Delegates enjoying an evening session; Joni Eareckson Tada visiting with Endeavorers.

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Thank God For Martin Luther

by Douglas Greenhalgh

Until recently I knew little about Martin Luther. I knew that he had a great deal to do with the Reformation of the church, that he nailed 95 theses to a church door somewhere in Germany, and that he broke away from the Church of Rome. I thank him, not so much for his reforming work, however, but because he brought East and West together in 1983. Let me explain.

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther. This event has been marked by many celebrations, especially in the German Democratic Republic, made possible when government travel restrictions for visiting groups were eased. The government opened wide the doors for westerners to enter and visit many of the places made famous by Martin Luther. In fact, I understand that some 2000 groups and societies from the United States alone have been invited to visit and pay tribute to this great man.

The opportunity also was given to the church to arrange for many celebrations and other events in recognition of the "Luther Year." One of these was a **Luther Seminar** held near Wittenburg, the city where Martin Luther taught in the University and where the 95 theses were posted when he came to the realization that Christianity involved more than what currently was being practiced, including a personal encounter with God.

This **Luther Seminar** was organized by the Gnadau Fellowship Movement in connection with the Ecumenical Youth Service of the Protestant Churches of the German Democratic Republic. Invitations were extended for visitors to share in this seminar through the World's Christian Endeavor Union.

It is not my intention to give a detailed account of the Seminar but rather to relate what the visit meant to me personally and the impression that it left on me.

As the time for the visit drew near, I became quite apprehensive, never having been in a socialistic country before. What would the reception be like? How would we be treated? What would we be permitted to say? I hardly knew what to expect.

As we crossed the border from West to East, I was asked by my colleagues from the West, who had been there before, what my first impressions were. At first, my impression of fear and suspicion was reinforced as we traveled across the guarded border into the unknown. As I entered the country my first reaction was not that of anger, nor pity, nor that of being glad of living in a western country—but that of sadness. Sad that such a thing as a guarded border and limited access has to be because man has not yet let learned how to love and trust his fellow man.

The sadness remained with me until we reached our destination—a small country village named Bergwitz. It was here we were to hold our seminar in a small Youth Conference Center, attached to the local Protestant Church.

Then the mood changed—as I was introduced to these young Christians how my heart was warmed as I saw in them something of the glory of the Lord. Not

(Continued on page 4)

Delegates at Luther Seminar in Bergwitz

Martin Luther

(Continued from page 3)

for them a sense of foreboding and sadness, but a radiant joy as they met those of us who had come from the West. For me it was an unforgettable experience and one I shall cherish always. There was such love as we shared together in the gospel, studying the Word of God—especially Galatians 5 as it related to the theology of Martin Luther—-praying together and playing together. There was no language barrier for those who were one in the Spirit. I was reminded of the words of the great hymn, "In Christ There is No East or West."

It was encouraging to me to see how these Christians are sustained through their faith. We learned about the youth work in the D.D.R. and shared with them the Christian Endeavor activities in our countries. I was able to share with them what Christian Endeavor is like in the British Isles and how we cope with the unemploymeent situation and the problems and difficulties it creates for our youth.

Not only did I share with these German believers but also with Christian friends and Endeavorers from the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States and West Germany. Altogether it was an enjoyable and not-to-be-forgotten experience.

We are indeed grateful and thankful to Gunter Neumann and his associates for the well organized and meaningful experience for those ten exciting days. Not only was I able to share in Bible study with them, but also shared in some of the homes; worshipped in Martin Luther's church in Wittenburg, witnessing there an infant baptism, a rare event for me a Baptist; visited Eisleben, the town where Luther was born and died; toured Wartburg Castle, where Luther took refuge and translated the New Testament from Greek into German; and shared in the church conference held at Magdeburg.

This certainly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and one that I shall never forget. So again I say, "Thank God for Martin Luther."

EUROPEAN EXCURSION

by Rev. James Heron
Area II General Secretary

During the summer when tourism is at its height, it was my privilege as Area II General Secretary of the World's Union, to visit Endeavorers in the Netherlands, Germany, and Austria. I was accompanied by my wife, Christine, and also Rev. and Mrs. James Murdoch.

Our first stop was at Amerongen, where we met with Geurt van Viegan, secretary of the Netherlands Christian Endeavor Union. It was interesting to meet twenty-seven Dutch and Armenian children who were attending a camp in this delightful setting and also to share with the workers. The Deaconness House afforded us warm and comfortable hospitality and fellowship in Christ permeated by the fragrance of the Master. The work of Geurt with the Literature Evangelism is worthy of our remembrance in prayer.

We also had the privilege of meeting and sharing with Hank Roggeveen, the president of the Union. It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bless our brethren in the Netherlands. Remember also, the Reverend Joke Schout and her ministry in Friesland where she is pastor of seven parishes of the Dutch Reformed Church.

After our visit to the Netherlands, we traveled to Augsburg in Bavaria to attend the German Christian Endeavor Convention. This was a thrilling experience. What a joy to see 4000 young people gather for Bible study at 9 a.m. in the Sport's Hall. The theme of the convention was "Peace" and all the speakers dealt from the Bible truths on many aspects, all leading to the vital conclusion that true peace is to be found in Jesus Christ who is our Peace and who made peace through His blood on the Cross. How happy the World's President and I were to participate in this convention and the alumni meeting and to extend cordial greetings on behalf of the World's Union, Area II, and the British Union. Our joy was made complete when we revisited Kassel and witnessed the progress that has been made in the construction of the building to be used for counselling sessions.

When we went to Seeboden in Austria, we again were graciously welcomed and entertained by the General Secretary, Winfried Barowski, and President, Otto Koch. We also met Rev. Karl Muller, former President, and enjoyed fellowship in his home at Tressdorf. We met with Austrian Endeavorers and shared in conversation with them.

Please pray for our brethren in Europe. Not only those in the countries mentioned but also in Portugal, Spain, Belgium, and all others linked together through the World's Union. Let us especially remember Endeavorers in Lebanon, Guatemala, and other troubled areas of the world.

May our Lord give Peace in our time so that nations might be reconciled through Him who makes us one and breaks down the middle wall of partition that divides.

A BUSY YEAR ABROAD

by James Murdoch

WORLD'S PRESIDENT....

My first year as World's President has been a busy one taking me to all the places mentioned below and to some of them more than once. Shortly after the Second Century Conference in Edinburgh, I went over the Channel to our nearest neighbors in **Ireland** and participated in the Irish National Convention. It was interesting to find life proceeding quite normally in spite of "the troubles," and to note Christian Endeavor continuing to serve in the churches with undiminished vigor. Remember our brothers and sisters there in prayer.

Off the north coast of Scotland are the **Orkney** and **Shetland Islands.** I can remember visiting them as British President twenty years ago. It was good to go back, along with Scottish Secretary, George Campbell. We took part in nineteen meetings and services over eleven days which gives an idea of how active the societies are in this outpost.

ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

I have had three visits to England--Norfolk in the southeast, Sunderland in the northeast, Leamington and Lancashire. Both the British Convention, held in Liverpool, and the Scottish one, held in Hamilton, were very well attended and proved inspiring occasions for all who attended. The Lord's presence was very real. The main strength of our movement in the British Isles at present is in the junior grade, with strong backing from former Endeavors in comrades and alumni groups. There are still young people's and senior grades in some areas, but there is a need to try and have more young people's societies.

UNITED STATES AND CANADA

This has been my year in North America for by the time you read this I will have crossed the Atlantic three times. Attendance at the World's Union Executive meeting was combined with visits to New York, Pennsylvania, Columbus, Ohio and a wonderful week in Ontario, Canada. Many contacts were made and meetings addressed.

In Philadelphia, a very fine "Extension" Dinner gave us the opportunity to share with pastors, sponsors, and others interested in developing Christian Endeavor. The Philadelphia Longtimers backed this initiative in providing the dinner.

In Sherkston, Ontario, a banquet was arranged in our honor and brought together representatives from a wide area including some from Rochester, New York. We were "piped in" by a Scots Canadian in full regalia, and in the service which followed many took part from Juniors to alumni. It was good to renew acquaintance in Toronto with former Scottish and British Presidents.

A few weeks at home and we were back "across the Pond" to speak at state conventions in Texas and West Virginia. Then my wife and I joined the train tour from Chicago to Seattle, Washington, where I had the privilege of giving the keynote address at the 57th International Christian Endeavor Convention. I appreciated the time given in this convention to training sessions. These are held in small groups covering all age ranges and covering almost every facet of Christian Endeavor and Christian living in today's world. I visited as many of the groups as possible and was impressed by the standard of teaching being given.

EUROPE

This 2,500 trip by car proved a great opportunity to see and share at first hand with Endeavorers in Holland, Germany and Austria. It was thrilling to attend and participate in the German Convention in Augsburg, the city where Martin Luther waited to hear the verdict of the Council of Bishops called to pass judgment on his teachings. Nearly 500 years later we saw something of the fruit of the Reformation when we witnessed 4,000 young people come together in the morning for Bible study and prayer, and over 5,000 gather for the evening inspirational rallies. German Christian Endeavor has found the secret of attracting and holding young people in their societies and getting them to their conventions. In the Netherlands at Amerongen and in Austria at Seeboden it was good to share fellowship with small but keen groups bearing witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

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BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Trustees of the World's Christian Endeavor Union met for their annual session at Christian Endeavor Headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., October 18-19, 1983. Endeavorers from the Columbus area provided home housing for the Board members and Mrs. Etta Barner graciously hosted the Board for most of its meals.

The Trustees voted to change the site of the 20th World's Christian Endeavor Convention from Egypt to Seoul, Korea. This action followed reports from vice president Konrad Brandt and general secretary Charles Barner who discovered during recent visits to Egypt that the religious and politcal climate there is not conducive to holding a World's Convention there at the present time.

The Board also voted to look with favor on the following field work travels in 1984: Vice-President Konrad Brandt's travel to India, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and North America; President James Murdoch's travel to India, Australia, Burma and Korea (where he will attend the International Prayer Assembly for World Evangelism, June 4-10, 1984); and General Secretary Charles Barner's trip to Japan and Korea to initiate plans for the 20th World's Christian Endeavor Convention in Korea in 1986.

The following committee was elected as the 1986-1990 Nominating Committee: Clyde Sherk (Canada), chairman; Albert A. Akpan (Nigeria), Wilfred Bird (England), Murray Chambers (Australia), David G. Jackson (U.S.A.), Clyde W. Meadows (U.S.A.), Arno Pagel (Germany), B.K. Pramanik (India), Geurt van Viegen (Netherlands), and Burkhard Weber (Germany).

A schedule for the 1984 fall meetings in Amerongen, the Netherlands was established. The Christian Endeavor Motto, "For Christ and the Church" will be used as the theme, for the meetings and evangelism will be emphasized. An international musical program by European Endeavorers will open the meetings on Saturday evening September 15. Sunday will include a morning worship service followed by an afternoon Christian Endeavor Rally. A special called session of the World's Union Council will begin at 9 a.m., Monday, and the Board of Trustees will meet at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, and 9 a.m. Wednesday. Rev. Arno Pagel, immediate past president, will address the closing rally on Wednesday evening, September 19.

The Board reviewed the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the review of the Bylaws and voted to recommend to the special called meeting of the Council: proposed changes in the bylaws regarding elections; proposed procedures for the Nominating Committee; and proposed rules for election.

Since 1985 is to be promoted throughout the world as the International Year of Youth, it was agreed that Christian Endeavor participate in this emphasis. President Murdoch will recognize this in his newsletter and the Executive Committee, at its spring meeting in 1984, will give consideration to producing a promotional piece.

Action was taken to increase the amount budgeted for field work in 1984 in light of anticipated increased income. It also was voted to continue grants as an encouragement to national unions with special needs.

The general secretary reported that the Cameroon Christian Endeavor Union in West Africa was organized in 1981 with the following officers: Rev. John Williams, president; Rev. Frank Day, vice-president; Mrs. I.M. Matthew, secretary; Comfort Matthew, assistant secretary; and William Dick, treasurer. The mailing address for the union is 19 Mamfi Road, Mamfi, Cameroon, West Africa. Delegates from the Cameroon Union attended a joint Nigerian-Cameroon Christian Endeavor Convention held in Abak, Nigeria, September 15-18, 1983.

The Board of Trustees voted to recognize the Cameroon Christian Endeavor Union as a national union in the World's Christian Endeavor Union.

A Busy Year Abroad

(Continued from page 5)

IRELAND

During this trip to Ireland, I was able to visit societies and unions both in the north and south and participate in the 69th Irish National Convention held in the coastal town of Carrickfergus, ten miles north of Belfast. It was good to again see Christian Endeavor going forward despite the unsettled political climate.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Let me express a word of thanks to the many kind friends who have looked after Mrs. Murdoch and me so well in all these places. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to serve our movement in this way, and it underlines to me the wonderful fellowship of Christians to whom we belong. I am so grateful to God for journeying mercies and for the Word in season given for each occasion. I also would like to thank my group of prayer partners who follow me around the world in their prayers.

As I See It. . .

by Charles W. Barner

It was a pleasure for me, as General Secretary of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, to visit Nigeria with my wife Etta, September 14-26, 1983. Our Chief purpose for going to Nigeria was to participate in the joint convention of the Nigerian and Cameroon Christian Endeavor Unions in Ikot Ebak, September 15-18, 1983.

We were warmly welcomed during a special reception service at the opening session when we extended greetings from the World's Union. We addressed the delegates on the historic background of the Christian Endeavor movement, Power to Become, the Need for Christian Maturity, the True Vine, the True Shepherd, and the Social Consequences of the Gospel. Mr. Thompson, current President of the Cameroon Christian Endeavor Union, addressed the delegates on "The Seal of God. Several Nigerian leaders delivered messages on "Who will take part in the new earth and new Jerusalem: and "How shall we walk with the Lord."

A special convention choir, composed of young people, sang for the major convention sessions. Following the Sunday morning session the delegates visited the Meadows Secondary Commercial School and the Pagel Commercial Evangelical Seminary where the choir sand and the delegates visited the facilities.

Following the convention we met with the Executive Committee of the Nigerian Christian Endeavor Union. The discussion centered around the operation of the Meadows Secondary Commercial School. Each student pays 60 nari for the first semester of the school year (a nari is $1.20 U.S. currency). There are 1500 students in the school and 17 teachers. The students study English, literature, geography, mathematics, history, economics, writing, typing, shorthand, business and religion.

There are several pressing needs at the school. The first is for a library which will cost $2,500 U.S. and an administrator with a Masters Degree in school administration. In discussing the matter with the Inspector of Education for the Cross River State he told us it was essential for the school to have an administration with a Masters Degree to qualify the school for recognition by the Nigerian Government.

The Nigerian and Cameroon Christian Endeavor Unions plan to have a joint convention again in 1986 in the Cameroon.

Around The World

AUSTRALIA

On Sunday June 5, 1983, the Australian Christian Endeavor Union celebrated 100 years of Christian Endeavor in Australia. The Celebration, in the form of a Pilgrimage of Praise and Thanksgiving, was held in the building in which the first Australian C. E. Society began on June 5, 1883, in the Hope Street Church of Christ, Geelong, Victoria.

The Celebration attracted wide attention throughout Australia and delegates from each of the six States attended the function. The afternoon Celebration needed two churches to hold the people who responded to the occasion. Both churches were adjacent to the original building to the rear of a newer building where worship is now regularly held.

The original building was the venue for the actual Celebration with a closed circuit television relay to the other church building. Following the afternoon celebration some 200 people stayed on for an informal 'basket' type tea. The evening service of Celebration was held in a crowded church in another part of Geelong.

—Alf Chesterton

JAPAN

We had a very good youth volunteer summer conference in Karuizawa, a nice summer resort, on July 26-28 with the university students and business young people, under the aspices of the Japan Union of Christian Endeavor.

We invited a representative of the Korean Christian Endeavor Union to participate in this conference and experienced a wonderful international Christian fellowship between the two nations.

Mr. Hyo Jin Kang of the Pusan C. E. Union came as a representative of approximately 400,000 Korean C. E. members. After the conference, Mr. Kang received a warm welcome from several churches of the Japan C. E. Union in Tokoyo.

We also had another summer camp in the Western District, August 16-19 by Lake Biwa near Kyoto. Approximately 50 high school age young people from about 25 churches participated in this camp program.

—Takashi Oku

Youth Summer Volunteer Camp at Karuizawa, Japan

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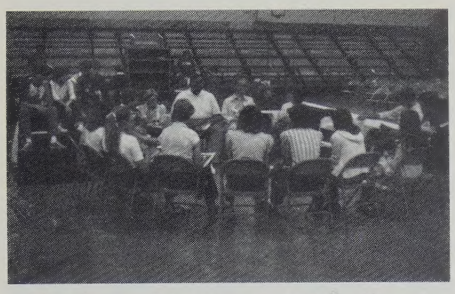
LORD OUR VI

Dr. Nate Jarrett visiting with Christian Endeavor leaders



Youth participating in Educational Conference with Rev. Jerome Fowler

Texas Endeavorers from Harlingen

Don Hudson leading a group of young people in song

A group of young people involved in morning sessions

More than 500 young people and their leaders from across North America and other areas of the world, gathered in Seattle, Washington, July 1-5, 1983, to participate in the 57th International Christian Endeavor Convention.

EVENING MESSAGES

Delegates listened to addresses by Rev. James Murdoch, Joni Eareckson Tada, Dr. Nathaniel Jarrett, and Dr. Anthony Campolo, and committed themselves to go forward for Christ and the Church under the new biennial theme, "Lord Our Vision Enlarge."

"The Apostle Paul saw the need to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles in the first century and Dr. Francis E. Clark saw the need to bring a young movement to the church in the last century," declared the Rev. James Murdoch of Scotland, president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union. In introducing the convention theme he stated, "Where there is no vision the people perish."

"...It's a great handicap to be physically blind but a greater handicap to be spiritually blind." He then asked, "Do you have blind spots? Get everything in focus by seeking first the kingdom of God and all such things as food and clothing will be given to you." He concluded, "Do you have double vision? Get an enlarged vision of Christ by turning your eyes upon Jesus."

After receiving the nineteenth International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation from President Lavern Billig, Joni Eareckson Tada addressed the convention in testimony and song.

"Suffering is the lowest common denominator that binds us all together, " stated Joni, as she sang "Spirit Wings" and "When Pretty Things Get Broken." "God does something to rip open your soul, " she continued, "and you begin to see things in a broader perspective than we think possible . . . It's tough to wield the sword of the Spirit when you're flat on your back . . .

"My world was limited to my hockey team and my family before God blew out the light in my life through a broken neck. I had to come to the place where I could agree that God knew what He was doing. Paul said in Philippians 4:11 that he learned to be content. Learning to be content is a process. I decided to be content; it is difficult to be spiritually content."

After singing, "He Careth For You" based on I Peter 5:7, Joni concluded that we must "lay the responsibility for our physical disabilities at the foot of the cross." Quoting Romans 8:28 she said, "It is our purpose to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. When we get our focus fixed on Heaven it gives us a healthier focus on things down here on earth...God wants us to touch those who have disabilities—invisible as well as visible."

Dr. Nathaniel Jarrett, pastor of the Martin Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Chicago, challenged the delegates Wednesday evening to let the theme become a reality in their lives. "We need to believe that God does enlarge our vision...We must be able to see beyond the wants of people to the needs of people." He continued by remarking that "our vision is enlarged by faith, by knowledge of what God has done before, by courage to

ON ENLARGE

yield to God's will, and by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives ... God enlarges our vision for man's good, for His glory and for His goal." He stated that "God's goal is to share with us His creation, His Son, His Suffering, His Cross and His Crown. Dr. Jarrett concluded by saying that "You need to stir up the gift of God within you...God does enlarge visions, all we have to do is believe."

Dr. Anthony Campolo stated that "becoming a Christian enlarges your vision," as he addressed the delegates on Thursday and Friday evenings. "We are not necessarily called to succeed but we are called to imitate the life style of Jesus. We must ask the question, 'What would Jesus do?'...The mark of a Christian is to live the life style of Jesus," he continued. "Invite the Holy Spirit to take possession of your life instead of trying to live for Jesus. Allow Jesus to live through you. The Holy Spirit can invade you ... possess you ... empower you ... and enliven you. When the Holy Spirit possesses you, you will become alive." Dr. Campolo remarked in conclusion, "We've made Christianity a way to get into Heaven. We should remember that Jesus said, 'I have come that ye might have life and have it more abundantly.' "

BIBLE STUDIES

Each morning delegates began their day with a quiet hour period based on the theme, "Lord Our Vision Enlarge."

Rev. Jackson C. Buick, president of the Irish Christian Endeavor Union, directed the Adult session. Dr. Kent D. Maxwell, pastor of the College Park United Brethren Church in Huntington, Indiana, led the session for Young Adults. The High School Quiet Hour was conducted by Rev. John Moyer, bishop of the Evangelical Congregational Church, Myerstown, Pennsylvania. Rev. Dennis TeBeest, youth pastor of the First Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan was the leader of the Junior High group.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Growth groups on Christian Endeavor Essentials, Personal Christian Growth, Growth in Christian Endeavor, Growth through the Quiet Hour, and Growth through Change were provided for the various age groups each morning. Sessions also were provided for pastors and junior, junior high, senior high, and youth sponsors.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The Albert H. Diebold Awards were presented to winners of the 1983 Christian Youth Witness Program at the General Assembly on Thursday morning by Lavern Billig, International Society President. Receiving the first place award for individuals was Debbie Skalsky of Disputanta, Virginia and for societies, the Teen Christian Endeavor Society of the Bruton Road Christian Church in Dallas, Texas.

Washington State, Oregon, the Youth Assembly and Samoan Endeavorers made special presentations during the General Assembly programs. These included skits, songs and features of activities of the various groups.

Delegates from Michigan extended an invitation to "Say yes to Michigan" in 1985 for the 58th International Convention in Holland. Wooden shoes were presented to

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Alfred and Vivian Saunders promoting Christian Endeavor

Mrs. Etta Barner visiting with Guatemalan delegates

Musical presentation during the Late Night Special

Cultural program by Samoan Endeavorers

Delegates enjoying the evening session

Rothenberger Elected President

At the meeting of the Corporation in Seattle, Washington, July 6, Dr. Jack R. Rothenberger of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, was elected president of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

Dr. Rothenberger serves as the senior pastor of Central Schwenkfelder Church in Worcester. He has been active for more than 25 years in the Christian Endeavor movement, most recently serving as a vice-president of the International Society.

He also has served as headmaster, chaplain, teacher, and coach of Perkiomen School; minister of Christian Education at Central Schwenkfelder Church; pastor of Lansdale Schwenkfelder Church; and associate pastor of Palm Schwenkfelder Church.

Dr. Rothenberger studied at Juniata College, Hartford Theological Seminary, and Temple University. He received the degree of Doctor of Ministries from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1977. He and his wife Jean, have two children, a daughter, Sue and a son, Bruce.

Dr. Rothenberger succeeds Lavern Billig of Greenville, Pennsylvania, who has served as president of the International Society for the past four years.

Other officers elected for the 1983-85 biennium are: Marvin Easter, Moxee City, Washington, associate president; Rev. L. Jerome Fowler, Washington, D.C., Mrs. Kathryn Gould, Port Colbourne, Ontario, Canada, and Dr. Kent D. Maxwell, Huntington, Indiana, vice-presidents.

Elected to serve on the Executive Committee with the president, associate president, vice-presidents, immediate past president (Lavern Billig), and Finance Committee Chairman (Oreon E. Fields, New Cumberland, West Virginia) were: Rev. Richard A. Cattermole, Reading, Pennsylvania, Rev. Frank C. Darling, Sr., Orchard Park, New York, Dr. Nathaniel Jarrett, Chicago, Illinois, Mary B. Moffitt, Dallas, Texas, Ernest D. Overkamp, Holland, Michigan, D. Steve Rawley, Churchville, Virginia, and Debbie Witcher, Harlingen, Texas.

Members of the Educational Committee elected in Seattle include: Timothy J. Kribs, chairman, Gladstone, Oregon, Mary I. Beatty, Wellsville, Ohio, Mrs. Lucille Billig, Greenville, Pennsylvania, Harold R. Holstein, Wilmington, California, Donald V. Hudson, Shirley, Indiana, Dr. Edgar L. Mack, Nashville, Tennessee, Keith R. Miller, Ronks, Pennsylvania, Donald A. Vespremi, Abilene, Texas and Florence Zimmerman, Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada.

The newly-elected officers and committee members were installed during the closing session of the convention by Rev.James Murdoch, president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union.

Installation of International Society officers for 1983-85

Extension and Perpetuation Fund

The biennial meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Extension and Perpetuation Fund of the International Society was held at Seattle Pacific University, July 5.

The following individuals were elected to a term of six years (1983-1989) as trustees: Eugene G. Alhart (New York), Mrs. Phyllis R. Meadows (Ohio), and Harold E. Westerhoff (New York).

Officers elected to serve a two year term included: Eugene G. Alhart, president, LaVerne H. Boss, vice-president, B.Z. Routh, treasurer, Merritt L. Smith, secretary, and Alden E. Imus, assistant secretary.

The "Forward Look" Committee, under the co-chairmanship of Dr. and Mrs. Clyde W. Meadows, reported that a list of potential contributors to the E & P Fund is currently being developed from outside the regular sources of income for the International Society and that an effort is being made to increase the capital funds by $25,000 before the time of the next International Convention in Hollard, Michigan in 1985.

The earnings from the investment of all gifts contributed to the E & P Fund will continue to be used for the ongoing program and activities of the International Society and the World's Christian Endeavor Union.

A PLEDGE TO DISCIPLESHIP

Excerpts from a sermon preached by Rev. William Bengtson, pastor of the Woodstock Dutch Reformed Church, third place winner in the 1982 Sermon Contest.

...As we think about the Pledge this morning I want to focus on several key words or phrases. I trust that this will help us appreciate the value of the Pledge and to understand how it applies to everyday experience and the life of Christian discipleship.

The First Word Is "Trust."

We begin by saying "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise..." As we make this Pledge we begin by ackowledging our need for Christ and the power of His Word and Spirit in our lives. We are reminded that the Christian makes a commitment which is demanding: but a Christian doesn't stand alone in carrying it out. It is a serious promise; but it is not a promise to be kept simply through our own strength or capability. We have much more than that. We have the promise of Christ's strength within. We have the assurance that the same Jesus to whom we commit ourselves comes to us and commits Himself to us. He is our Savior and Friend. He is our spiritual strength. He has promised that He will never leave us or forsake us.

I like that. Because without that kind of promise from the Lord I would be afraid to make a pledge like the Christian Endeavor Pledge. I would think: "That is too difficult for me. I know myself too well to make a promise which requires so high an ideal and such a demanding standard of Christian living." But with Christ pledging to come to me and to guide and help me then I have the faith to commit my life to Him. I am bold to begin with Christ and to go forward with Him through life because I am able to do so with trust in His care and provision for me. In other words, we make a pledge of discipleship because Christ makes discipleship possible. We make a pledge because Christ makes an even better pledge to us. He promises to love us and to dwell in us by His Spirit. He promises to grant us spiritual birth and life. He promises to guide and comfort us. And these promises are offered to everyone—every man, woman, or young person who will learn to seize them and believe in them.

Sometimes we hear someone express doubts and fears about a commitment to Christ or a commitment to discipleship. Most of us have felt such doubts and anxieties. Occasionally I have had folks tell me, "I could never live the life of a Christian. I'm not good enough. I'm not a religious person." But God has provided for all of us. He has made it possible for any of us to live life as it is meant to be lived—with faith and with love and with self-control and with purpose and happiness. This way of eternal life is meant for all of us; and it is within reach. It is entered into by faith—"Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength" as we say in the Christian Endeavor Pledge. It is a life continued by faith all the way.

So don't hold back from entering the door of beginnings with Christ: and don't refuse to commit yourself and turn your life over to Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Remember that His pledge to you is good and certain. He will help us to keep our promises. He will help us to follow and obey Him. We will be able to keep our Christian commitment by "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength."

The Second Key Phrase In The Christian Endeavor Pledge Is The Phrase About The Lord's Will.

We pledge to do whatever He would have us do. Now, that's not so easy. On the one hand, it is not easy because we have the task of discovering what the Lord wants us to do. Sometimes that is plain and clearly given; but in other cases we are not so sure about the Lord's will for us in a particular circumstance or decision. So we have this wonderful adventure of discovering and discerning God's will for our lives. This is one of the challenges of discipleship.

On the other hand, we have the challenge of obedience. Once we perceive what the Lord would have us do then we must be willing to do it. Most of us know that this is not always easy. But this is a key part of the Christian Endeavor Pledge. It is an important aspect of Christian life and growth for any follower of Jesus. We need to be both hearers and doers of the Word of God. We need to be willing to say: "Lord, whatever You would like me to do I will do it."

This may involve obedience in matters which seem rather insignificant and are hidden to those around us. Or it may mean obedience to an enterprise which is big and bold. We shouldn't talk lightly or neglect the small matters, nor should we shrink from God's call to

(Continued on page 12)

A Pledge to Discipleship (Continued from page 11)

the large vision and great work which He may have for us. In that sense we should be like King David of Israel who as a boy learned to be obedient and responsible as a shepherd for his father's sheep. He did that work diligently and with faith in God. Then he was summoned to a much greater task. He became a leader in the national and religious life of Israel. This was a work which required vision, faith, courage, and obedience to the Lord. But David did not shrink from obedience to God's great assignment. He went ahead by faith.

In this same way we need to say: "Lord, I am willing to do what you would like me to do—whether it is something unnoticed and unheralded; or whether it is a task which presents a more public stand for Christ and the opportunities and pressures of a leadership position." In either case, may our determination be to do the Lord's will be His enabling grace...

Thirdly, As We Consider This Christian Endeavor Pledge We Need To Focus On The Christian Disciplines Which Are Listed.

We pledge to make these Christian disciplines the rule of life. We promise to pray and read the Bible. We promise to support the work and worship of our church. And we promise to take part in the meetings and activities of the Christian Endeavor society. These are all very practical disciplines of Christian living. They are so vitally important. These disciples of prayer and Bible reading and worship and service will help us stay on course. They will help us with the first part of the Pledge—that is, learning to trust the Lord for strength and discovering and doing what the Lord would have us do. So we need to consider each of these disciplines. Then we should evaluate ourselves often by asking ourselves: "Am I praying as I should? Am I reading the Bible and being spiritually fed on the great promises and truths of Scripture. Am I worshipping with others and benefiting from the fellowship, instruction, and encouragement of other Christians? Am I giving of myself in service and of my means in the support of the Lord's mission? Am I taking part in the meetings and activities of the Christian Endeavor society?

These are very basic activities in Christian discipleship. But they are essential to growth towards Christian maturity and they are essential to fruitful and effective service.

These are disciplines of our faith and life. That means they don't come automatically or without effort. But we will find that the work and effort produce something greater than mere habit or discipline. We will discover that the disciplines of Christian living are also the joys of life. There is the joy of pouring out our hearts to God with our praises and with our requests. There is the joy of listening and of feeding on the Bread of Life. There is the happiness and fulfillment of service to others. There is the joy of worship and of Christian fellowship. These are practices which have their own reward; but first they are disciplines which require our diligent cultivation...

Finally, We Conclude With A Promise In Our Pledge That In All Things We Will Seek The Savior's Guidance.

This is so important. Several months ago I went to watch a running race for elementary school-age children. The course for the race was about one-half mile long. It was held at one of the local schools. The race began in front of the school, wound around behind the school, and then continued over the playground to the finish line—the goal. The visiting runners weren't familiar with the course. This was all new to them. Some had never run before. So in order to find their way there was a guide running in front of them. Someone from the senior high school track team started off about fifty yards in front of the younger runners and showed them the way. The race began and the runners were able to run confidently by keeping their eyes on the guide before them.

So also it is with life. If we are going to find our way through life and reach the goal of the upward call in Christ Jesus then we need the Savior's guidance. He has promised to be the Good Shepherd whose voice we will recognize. He has promised to shed light of His presence so that our steps are secure and directed towards the highest goal. He has promised to run before us. Don't doubt that promise. In all things seeks the guidance which the Savior offers and which He most certainly gives.

A pledge to discipleship as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you willing to make such a pledge by the help of God? Trusting in the Lord for strength are you willing to follow Him? Are you willing daily to do the things—carry out the disciplines which will help you stay close to the Savior?

To all who are of a willing heart and who pledge themselves to that way of life, God offers the power of His resurrection life and the prize of the upward call in Christ Jesus. May it be so with each of us and with all those throughout the world who hear the great invitation to discipleship by faith in Jesus Christ.

Around the World

(continued from page 7)

INDIA

Word has been received of the death of Rev. Titus Ebenezer, a long time Christian Endeavorer, on May 26, 1983 at Madras. He was 75 years old.

Rev. Ebenezer served as Hon. General Secretary, Vice-President, and President of the India Christian Endeavor Union. He also served as editor for the India Christian Endeavor Union magazine and the India C.E. Year Book for 20 years.

He was a teacher in the Voorhees High School, Vellore, and then was the Headmaster of the Walter Schudder High School In Tindivanum. He later was appointed as the Presbyter of the St. Thomas (Garrison) church at St. Thomas Mount, in the C.S.I. Madras Diocese. He also implemented the rehabilitation project of the India C.E. Union at Goschen Home—the discharged prisoners home in Madras.

International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation

Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni Eareckson Tada, artist and author, received the Nineteenth International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation Tuesday, July 5, 1983, during th evening mass meeting of the 57th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Seattle, Washington. The Citation was signed by President Lavern Billig and General Secretary Charles Barner.

The citation read as follows:

International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation to Joni Eareckson Tada

"Recognizing the superb courage, the vibrant faith in the face of a seemingly insurmountable handicap, and rejoicing in her achievements in art, visual aids, writing, and addressing public meetings in the name of Christ, the International Society of Christian Endeavor, at its Fifty-seventh Convention, confers this Nineteenth InternationalYouth's Distinguished Service Citation, its highest award, upon Joni Eareckson Tada.

"Millions of people have seen her mouth-drawn art work, read the records of traumatic spiritual struggle in her books, heard the warm declaration of faith in God in her speeches, and thrilled at the portrayal of her life story in motion pictures. These achievements came after the swimming accident that left her severely limited in physical movement but unlimited in courage, faith, and total dependence upon God's leadership. Her life has become a gleaming demonstration of the truth that with God, handicaps become avenues of His power.

"It is with boundless admiration for her vibrant courage, with measureless gratitude for her undaunted faith, and full recogniztion of her accomplishments in winning untold numbers to Jesus Christ that this Citation is presented to Joni."

Lord Our Vision Enlarge

(Continued from page 9)

President Lavern Billig and President-elect Jack Rothenberger as a symbol of Holland hospitality.

Wednesday evening a reception was held in honor of Lavern and Lucille Billig, reconizing Lavern's four years of leadership as president of the International Society. Following a program of "remembrances" in word, picture and song, the past president's pin was presented to Lavern by Dr. LaVerne Boss, a former president, and a gold necklace presented to Lucille.

A communion service for delegates, directed by Rev. Clair E. Beatty of Miamisburg, Ohio, was held on Thursday evening. After a time of singing and meditation, delegates received the bread and cup as a symbol of their unity as believers in Christ.

Late night specials each evening included rap sessions with speakers, musical programs, and opportunity to share experiences with Christian Endeavorers from other countries and states.

As the convention ended Friday evening delegates left with new friends, new enthusiasm, and an enlarged vision of what the Lord can do in their lives and in their Christian Endeavor societies.

Michigan Endeavorers

BIENNIAL THEME

Lord Our Vision Enlarge, the International Society of Christian Endeavor's theme for the next two years, was launched when young people and their leaders from across North America gathered in Seattle, Washington for the 57th International Convention and pledged themselves to an enlarged vision of the Lord's Work.

Christian Endeavor societies will be using this theme, along with its subthemes for many state and local activities during the next two years. For Christian Endeavor Week activities, the subtheme, "By Providing Us the Example" will be the topic for Sunday, January 29, 1984, and "By Putting Us Under Pressure" the topic for Sunday, February 5. In 1985 the subtheme, "By Prodding Us to Action" will be the topic for the first Sunday of Christian Endeavor Week, January 27, and "By Perfecting Us in Love" will be the topic for Sunday, February 3, the closing Sunday of this special week.

1983-85 BIENNIAL THEME

LORD OUR VISION ENLARGE

By Providing Us the Example — Philippians 2:5-11

1. In Service — v. 7
2. In Humility — v. 8
3. In Obedience — v. 8
4. In Suffering — v. 8
5. In Victory — vs. 9-11

By Putting Us under Pressure — 1 Peter 3:13-16

1. Through Persecution — v.14
2. Through Responsibility to Witness — v.15
3. Through a Good Conscience — v. 16

By Prodding Us to Action — I Timothy 6:11-16

1. Through Fleeing from Evil Things — v. 11
2. Through Following Righteousness — v. 11
3. Through Fighting the Good Fight — v. 12
4. Through Keeping the Commandment of God — v. 14

By Perfecting Us in Love — John 4:13-21

1. Through His Spirit — v. 13
2. Through His Saving Grace — vs. 14, 15
3. Through the Love of God — vs. 16-19
4. Through Our Love Toward the Brethen — vs. 20, 21

The biennial theme outline was prepared by Dr. Clyde W. Meadows, Columbus, Ohio. Honorary President for Life World's Christian Endeavor Union.

1983 Society Roll Call

Societies and unions which have become members of the International Society of Christian Endeavor through financial support of $25 or more during June, July, August, September and October 1983 are listed here. Each of these groups has received an enrollment certificate. Those groups which have contributed $100 or more have received a goal seal certificate.

Groups are arranged alphabetically by state and province. Others who enroll will be listed in future issues.

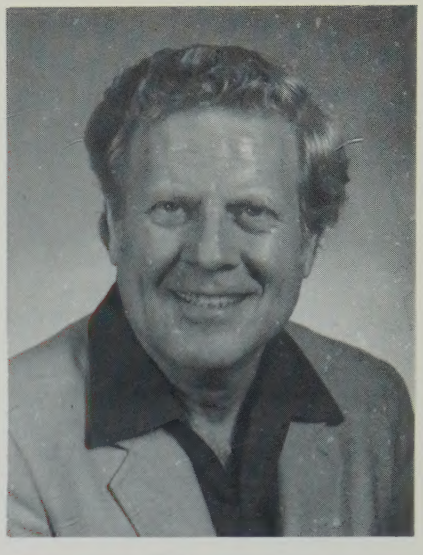
GOLD SEAL

Union Church of Brimfield, Brimfield, Illinois
Maryland Christian Endeavor Alumni
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Missouri
New York State Christian Endeavor Union
Westport Federated Church, Westport, New York
Christian Endeavor Societies, Woodstock Dutch Reformed Church, Woodstock, New York
Woodstock Dutch Reformed Church, Woodstock, New York
Oregon Christian Endeavor Union
St. John's Presbyterian Church, Devon, Pennsylvania
Junior Christian Endeavor, Central Schwenkfelder Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Christian Endeavor Societies, Westminster Mayfair Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Longtimers Christian Endeavor Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Faith United Presbyterian Church, Sharpsville, Pennsylvania
Southern Region Christian Endeavor Conference
Arcadia Christian Church, Arcadia, Texas
Virginia Christian Endeavor Union
Washington State Christian Endeavor Union
West Virginia Christian Endeavor Union

HONOR GROUPS

Birdine Christian Endeavor, Birdine A.M.E. Zion Church, Forkland, Alabama
Ferndale Christian Church, Ferndale, Michigan
Brooklyn/Queens (NY) Christian Endeavor Alumni
First Church of Evans, Derby, New York
Christian Endeavor Societies, Community Church of Little Neck, Little Neck, New York
Varick Christian Endeavor Society, St. Augustus A.M.E. Zion Church, Kinston, North Carolina
Columbus Area Adult Christian Endeavor Fellowship, Columbus Ohio
Oak Street United Methodist Church, Dayton, Ohio
Inter-County Christian Endeavor Alumni, Galion, Ohio
Christian Endeavor Societies, Bethel United Presbyterian Church, Salineville, Ohio
Senior High Christian Endeavor Society, Fredonia United Presbyterian Church, Fredonia, Pennsylvania
Northport Christian Church, Newport, Tennessee
Dallas District (TX) Christian Endeavor Union
Teen Christian Endeavor, Bruton Road Christian Church, Dallas, Texas
Young Adult Christian Endeavor, Jerusalem Chapel United Brethren Church, Churchville, Virginia
Wesleyan Youth, Valley View Wesleyan Church, Roanoke, Virginia
Christian Endeavor Societies, Christian Church of New Cumberland, New Cumberland, West Virginia
St. Mark's Christian Endeavor, St. Mark's United Church, Dundas, Ontario

The President's Corner



by Jack Rothenberger

The 57th International Christian Endeavor Convention held in Seattle, Washington, is now history and we are living under the mandate of the theme of that convention for the next two years. As your new president my prayer continues to be: "Lord Our Vision Enlarge."

As you and I travel together on our Christian pilgrimage these next two years in our service to Christ through Christian Endeavor, let us think of traveling the King's Highway.

The King's Highway is not a static pathway; it is a process of learning and being taught by the living Christ. There can be no resting in our spiritual growth.

The King's Highway is a pathway of faith because none of us knows the future. We need to depend upon the living Christ for guidance, strength, and endurance.

May we always be mindful of the fact that those who travel the King's Highway are at different places along the pathway. Some are beginners, others are farther along, but none of us have arrived at the destination of complete spiritual growth. We must learn to help each other along the way.

The consistent direction we all need to walk on the King's Highway is toward Our Lord. He not only is our guide and example, He also is our goal.

As we continue walking together in Christian Endeavor, may we learn to develop a bond of love and faithfulness, rooted in our relationship to the living Christ, that will be an example to the world that two can do anything...if one is the Lord.

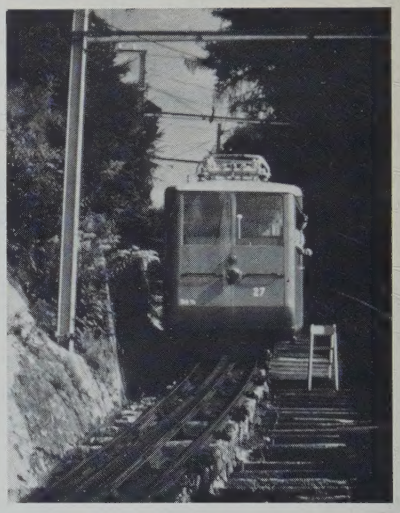
May the words of the Psalmist be our prayer:

Make me to know thy ways, O Lord;
teach me thy paths.
Lead me in thy truth and teach me,
for thou art the God of my salvation;
for thee I wait all the day long.
Psalm 25:4,5

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR'S

Passion Play Fellowship Tour

September 14-30, 1984



Join us on a never-to-be-forgotten tour of Europe, September 14-30, 1984. The Netherlands will become more than windmills, boathouses, and canals as you enjoy cheese from Gouda, china from Delph, and flowers everywhere.

We will visit Amsterdam, Cologne, Stuttgart, and Munich. Enjoy the fellowship of other Christians of the Rhine River cruise and while traveling by motor coach through the Black Forest and the Alps.

But it's people that bring life to countries and in the Netherlands you will visit Joke Schourt, a Dutch Reformed pastor in Friestland, and share with Christians from all parts of the world in services of praise in Amerongen.

The highlight of the tour will be the Passion Play in Oberammergau. There's nothing like it in the world. The vast open-air stage, capable of holding 500 actors, the breathtaking mountain backdrop of the Bavarian Alps, and the inspired village actors all add up to a soul-stirring, never-to-be-forgotten experience.

Send today for the full itinerary giving details of the tour and enjoy a European tour with fellow Christians from the United States and Canada.

Passion Play Tour Application

Mail to: Rev. Charles W. Barner, Tour Director
1221 East Broad Street, P.O. Box 1110
Columbus, OH. 43216

NAME_____ Telephone_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY, STATE, ZIP_____